



CHICKALOON NEWS

Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax Hwnic Giligagge

A New Year and a New Look

Ugheli Dzaen (Good day!) Welcome to your quarterly newsletter! The goal is to provide Chickaloon Native Village Tribal Citizens and family with events, news and information happening in the Tribal government.

Contact the Editor, Shelia Olson, with questions, article ideas, at 907-761-3909. Tsin'aen sigu to Council Member Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart as the Copy Editor.

Ahtna/Dena'ina Kenaege' (Language Lesson)

Ts'es Tac'ilaexde (Ahtna) "Where Fish Run Among Rocks",
Ts'es Tuk'ilaght (Dena'ina), Eska Creek; Sutton

Chidaq'ashala (Dena'ina), "Grandmother's Little Place", Wishbone Hill

Staeł Na' (Ahtna), "Wide River",
Ch'tahtnu (Dena'ina), Kings River

Ts'itonhna' (Ahtna), **Ch'atanhtnu (Dena'ina)**, "River from which trail comes out",
 Matanuska River.

Nay'dini'aa Na' (Ahtna), **Nuk'din'itnu (Dena'ina)**, "River that bridge extends across",
 Chickaloon River; Chickaloon village site.

Tsidek'etna' (Ahtna), **Chidaq'atnu (Dena'ina)**, "Grandmother's place creek, Moose
 Creek, formerly called Tsadaka Creek.

Nuu Tah (Ahtna), **Niteh (Dena'ina)**, "Between Islands" or "Among Islands", Matanuska
 village site, Old Knik; general delta area between the Matanuska and Knik rivers.

Benteh (Dena'ina), "Among the lakes" or "Lake country", Wasilla area; area between
 Wasilla Lake and Cottonwood lakes.

Dghayitna' (Ahtna), **Dgheyaytnu**, **Dgheyay Leht (Dena'ina)**, 'Stickleback Creek' or
 'Where Stickleback Run', Ship Creek, original Anchorage townsite.

**Excerpt from Status of Ahtna Dena Language—Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart, 2015,
 Our Language Came Back to Us**

Ahtna Athabaskan is one of 11 Athabaskan languages in Alaska, spoken mainly in the south-central region of the state. There are four regional dialects for Ahtna; Lower, Upper, Central, and Western.

Currently, the Ahtna language has fewer than 100 fluent language speakers and most are over the age of 70. Chickaloon Village, who teaches the Ahtna language in their school and to help the language revive, has adapted and merged the Ahtna language dialects with fluent speakers from upper regions.



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#### Upcoming Events

- Spring Break - March 8-15
- Council Meeting - Mar 18
- Council Meeting - Apr 15
- Council Meeting - May 20
- School Graduation - May 28
- Culture Camp - June 15-19

## Administration & Accounting Department

Administration  
& Accounting Department  
Office Hours

907-745-0749

Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM—5:00 PM

### Yearly Audit season is upon us.

Accounting staff have been busy ts'endziidi (bees) the beginning of 2020 working on the 2019 audit.

Balanced that with together to recharge at the Art Café.



## Education Department



### Elder Spotlight



**Albert Harrison**  
Council Treasurer

Albert was born in Chickaloon, in 1935. **His immediate family** includes Mom—Annie Nicoli; Dad—Lee Harrison; Siblings—Helen, Katherine, William, Jessie, Raymond, Angelina, Shirley, Mabel, Norman, and Harold; and Tribally adopted daughter—Jennifer Harrison

**Fun Fact:** One is his Navy shipmates played 287 games of chess until he beat Albert.

**Life goal achieved?** Studied electronics and mechanical work

**Bucket list item?** Candy! Coffee! During his life, he swam, played games, chess, checkers. "If I can beat 'em, I like to play. I would love to catch more fish, learn how to play the guitar better. Learn to do something more, maybe the violin, would like to learn to fly, so I can say I could."

**Who has been his hero?** His brother "Norman, when he was a surveyor. He liked to do what he did."



George Holly Visits Ya Ne Dah Ah and Sings with the Snakaey



100th Day of School Celebration



Cross Country Ski Program



Chickaloon 2020 NYO Winners!!



Beading with Elders



## Lay'tsen — Owl Family

Once upon a time, there was a family of owls. There was the father, the mother and their children. Father Owl went hunting every day. There was not enough food for such a large family.

One day, Father Owl went out hunting for a rabbit. Soon he spotted a rabbit eating willows on an island. Father Owl swooped down on the rabbit and grabbed it by the neck and while Father Owl was hanging on to the rabbit, the rabbit began running through the woods with him. Father Owl's head banged against the trees and the stumps. Father Owl began yelling for Mother Owl. "The rabbit is taking me into the brush. It is running away with me."

Mother Owl yelled back, "Let it go! Let it go!"

Father Owl yelled back, "I will not let it go!"

So the rabbit kept running with the owl hanging on to him. Father Owl squeezed the rabbit's neck again and the rabbit fell. So Father Owl got his rabbit.

Father Owl's family was very busy preparing to move to a new camp. They moved to the place where Father Owl killed the rabbit. It was a very happy and exciting time for all of them. All this time Father Owl did not waste anything from the rabbit. He barbecued everything. The children were hungry, so Father Owl gave each of his children a piece of rabbit and they ate and ate. They all had a good time. Father Owl was so proud. He turned to Mother Owl and said, "You told me to let go of the rabbit. Now look at the children! Look at their mouths. They all have pieces of rabbit in them and they are enjoying it." So everyone had enough to eat.

**Atna' Yanida'a (Ahtna Stories)**, 1979, (Pages 15-19), Written in Ahtna by Molly Billum, Translated by Millie Buck, Director Bilingual Education Program for the Copper River Native Association



Owl Family Illustration by Frank C. Terry

## Staff Member Spotlight



**Donita Slawson**  
ANA Language Project  
Manager

**Donita was born in St Louis, Missouri**  
Her immediate family is— 2 sisters and a brother, Becky, Jane and Paul.  
Her children are Gil, Sarah, Feona, and Sam Jr

**Fun Fact**—her Ahtna name is Deniigi which means moose in Ahtna, which is fitting as the moose is the backbone of the Dene' culture.

**Her life goal** is to learn and teach as much Dene' language as she can.

**A bucket list item** is to visit Egypt  
**Her heroes** are all the Elders who taught her the Dena'ina language



2019 was an exciting year of growth for Ya Ne Dah Ah School! Through the generous support of our funders, our school doubled in size and increased from 12 to 23 students. We are serving grades pre-K through high school.

Tsin'aen Mat-Su Health Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Southcentral Foundation, and Cook Inlet Tribal Council for your continued support!

## Environmental Stewardship Department

The Environmental Stewardship Department (ESD) has been busy advocating, informing, teaching, researching, and creating this winter! Here is an introduction to the projects and the staff members of the ESD!

The *Nay'dini aa Na' Kayax Hwnic Dade'tsenes* (Chickaloon Native Village Information We Know) Project is being conducted by Angie Wade, Willow Hanson, Fran Seager-Boss, Rain Wade and Jessica Winnestaffer **[funded by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans]**. Our team is working with numerous partners to protect and document Ahtna cultural sites (one is 4,700 years old!). When impacts to a cultural site are unavoidable, we are advocating for comprehensive research as well as recovery of cultural resources, before the site and its ancestral information are lost forever. We work with Chickaloon Village Traditional Council to assert Tribal sovereignty in the regulatory process with state and federal agencies. Additionally, we are teaching Ahtna culture to students, residents and visitors in our community to increase Ahtna cultural appreciation and knowledge. Want to join this team? We have two summer positions for summer Ahtna Cultural Interpreters!

Richard Chiolero leads the Tribal Response Program which seeks to identify and clean up brownfields (special contaminated sites) for reuse **[funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency]**. Richard works to prevent future site contamination through community education. If you know of contamination (such as junk cars, oil barrels, buried fuel tanks, abandoned houses with asbestos or lead paint, or old fuel/oil spills) please let Richard know!

If you would like a Winter Newsletter about this program or a presentation to a community group, please contact Richard at 907-761-3908.



The ESD houses a growing CVTC Permanent Collections of Tribal photographs, periodicals, oral history recordings, Ahtna language recordings, and ethnographic materials (including moccasins and beadwork by Katie Wade) managed by Selena Ortega-Chiolero **[funded by a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs]**.

Selena is creating Ahtna exhibits for regional museums and the CVTC website as well as a digital archive for web-based access to cultural materials/ information.

The ESD is studying juvenile salmon in Moose Creek to understand where they live and when they move to the ocean. The project is a 3-year effort which uses equipment like pet microchips to study fish movement **[funded by grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and US Fish and Wildlife Service]**.

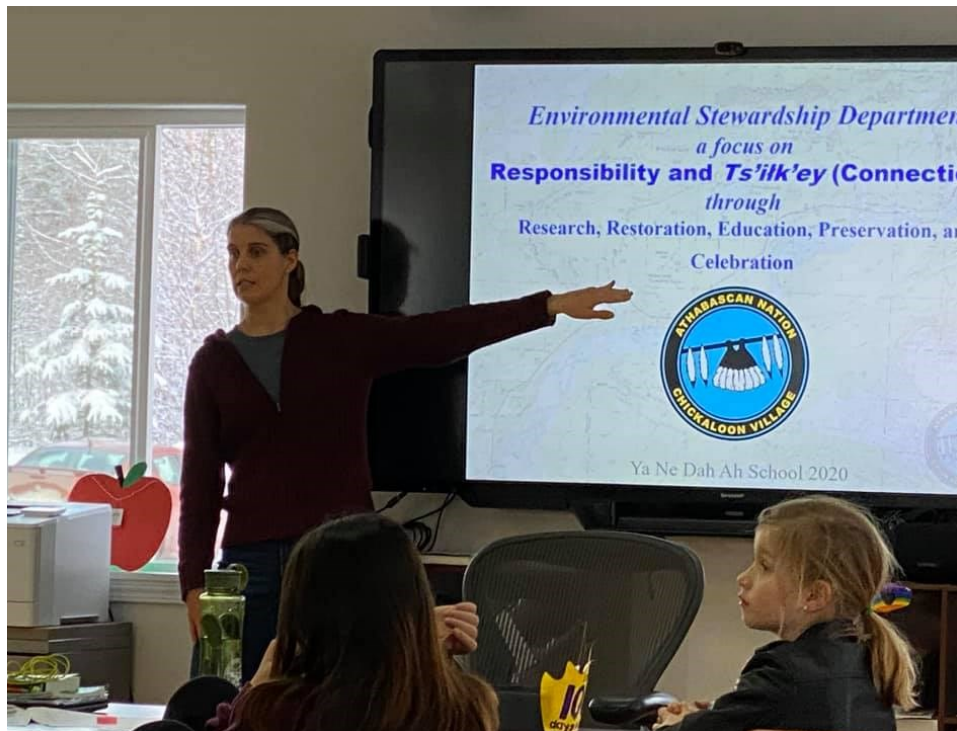


The results of this study will help identify fish habitats that should be protected to ensure salmon can thrive in our watershed! Want to join the fisheries research team? We have posi-



Lastly, the ESD strives to preserve the natural environment in our community by reviewing permit applications for regional development projects, encouraging recycling in Sutton and elsewhere, participating in community planning, and helping Tribal citizens and community members learn about our environment and get outside! **[funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency]**





ESD Director, Jessica Winnestaffer, presenting at Ya Ne Dah Ah during government studies week



ESD Tribal Response Program Coordinator, Richard Chiolero, presenting at Ya Ne Dah Ah during government studies week

## Cultural Insights by Rain Wade

I am the Elder Cultural Interpretive Guide and I work in the ESD to preserve and share our history! Lucky me, getting to work in the education and tourism sectors to chat with folks.

Next month we are planning to get together with family to share pictures in the CVTC Collections, and hopefully identify more details about the pictures. Our digital archive will be coming online in the near future for all the family to see the pictures! You won't have to travel here to view them (but we'd love to see you). Some of you may have pictures that you'd like to share with the family, and this will be a great way to do so. After they're scanned, you can choose to keep a print or the original. Then those photos can be part of the CVTC Collection, which will be organized by family names, and viewable by family. Not everything can be seen by the public, it will have limited access.

A family history book is something I have worked on, and it's designed so family can add to the story, or make comments, which will be shared, too. This is our history, from ancient times in Alaska to the present, and some of the events that got us to where we are now. It's all in the works, and we'll keep you posted.

## Facilities & Housing Department

Affordable Housing is available to qualified applicants. We currently have 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom units available. Applications are available at the Administration and Housing Offices located at 9255 N Glenn Highway, Palmer, AK or on the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council website, [www.chickaloon-nsn.gov](http://www.chickaloon-nsn.gov); click on the downloads tab and scroll down to the Facilities and Housing Department.

Applications can be dropped off at 9255 N Glenn Highway or can be mailed to PO Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674 or faxed to (907) 745-0709.

Call Samantha Ange at 907-745-0749 for more information.

## Health & Social Services Department

### Staff Member Spotlight

**Rose Westcoast**  
Advocate Driver



Rose was born in Nushagak at Queens Cannery

She has 5 siblings

**Fun fact:** She has always been curious how things are made and how they work.

**Her life goal** is to try to stay healthy

**Her bucket list items** are to travel to Hawaii and learn to speak her Yupik language more

**Her hero** is her mom, “she laughs a lot”



Christmas Dinner with the Elders



HSS Dept Office Hours

907-745-0704

Monday through Friday

9:00 AM—4:00 PM



**Elders' Lunch** is held every Thursday 12-1pm at the Government Building at 16166 N Glenn Highway in Sutton, Alaska. Lunches are open to the public. The Menu is posted each week by Tuesday on the digital calendar. The calendar can be found on the CVTC website at [www.chickaloon-nnsn.gov](http://www.chickaloon-nnsn.gov). If you have any questions, please call 907-745-0704.

### Transport Schedule

**Monday:** LifeHouse Clinic/Valley Native Primary Care Center/ and Transportation also provided for Elder's needing assistance with shopping, local resource access.

**Tuesday:** LifeHouse Clinic/Valley Native Primary Care Center/Alaska Native Medical Center/Southcentral Foundation (Anchorage)/ and Valley Native Primary Care Elder Wellness

**Wednesday:** LifeHouse Clinic/Valley Native Primary Care Center/Alaska Native Medical Center/ and Southcentral Foundation (Anchorage)

**Thursday:** LifeHouse Clinic and Elder's Lunch Program

**Friday:** Lifehouse Clinic and Elder Activities (please contact HSS Department for a list of upcoming activities)

**Please contact 907-745-0704 to schedule a ride.**

Please provide a 48-hour notice when requesting a ride.

We do our best to take every transport request; however, Anchorage transports are based upon driver availability.

Our service area includes the communities of Glacier View, Chickaloon, Sutton, as far as Palmer to Seward Meridian and the Butte.

**The C'eyiits' Hwnax Life House Community Health Center is open to the public for primary care needs.**

They offer specialty services including Audiology, Behavioral Health Services, Chiropractic, Dental, and Massage. Most specialty services require an appointment. Some of the specialty services, such as massage, require out-of-pocket payment at the time of service at a reduced rate. For more information contact them at 907-631-7665.

View upcoming dates of services available on their website [www.lifehouseclinic.com](http://www.lifehouseclinic.com) or follow them on Facebook C'eyiits' Hwnax Life House Community Health Center.



Chickaloon Native Village and Chickaloon Village Traditional Council's webpage is <https://www.chickaloon-nsn.gov/>

## Justice Department

### Protect with Courage ~ Serve with Compassion

The Justice Department Officers are in close partnership with Alaska state troopers and matcom dispatch. The Chickaloon Village Justice Department Officers cannot provide legal advice

In case of emergency, please dial 911



Justice Department

907-745-0700

Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday

9:00 AM—6:00 PM

IF AN EMERGENCY

CALL 911

### Veteran's Day Certificates of Appreciation



Taa'i Nitkilzen (Three Amigos)  
Don Shaginoff, Albert Harrison, Lloyd Shaginoff

## Transportation Department

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council operates a public transit service known as **Chickaloon Area Transit System (CATs)**, through a Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Bus and Operating grant. It operates each week, Monday through Friday, within our service area from MP 70 to MP 40 of the Glenn Highway. CATs is a demand responsive transit system with handicap access that is available to all residents in our service area as dates, times, and seating are available. CATs connects to Valley Transit for rides in their Palmer & Wasilla service area with connections to Anchorage. To schedule a ride please call 907-745-2287 (907-745-CATs).



SUMMER PROJECTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT INCLUDE: Finish the Ya Ne Dah Ah school parking lot addition and Construct KATIE'S HWNAX (Aunt Katie's Visitor Pavilion)

## Chickaloon Native Village was among the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2020 Culture of Health Prize Finalists

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced the eight communities - Addison, Illinois; Alamosa County, Colorado; **Chickaloon Native Village**, Alaska; Douglas County, Kansas; Drew, Mississippi; National City, California; Tulsa County, Oklahoma; Worcester, Massachusetts - chosen as finalists for the 2020 RWJF Culture of Health Prize. The Prize honors communities working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity, and equity for all.

To earn Prize finalist status, communities had to demonstrate how their efforts reflect the six Prize criteria:

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.
- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Creating conditions that give everyone a fair and just opportunity to reach their best possible health.
- Harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.
- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

This spring, each finalist community will host a site visit for representatives from the Prize program and the 2020 Prize winners will be announced this fall. The winners will receive a prize and opportunities to share their story and lessons learned with the country. Learn more about the previous 44 Prize winners at [www.rwjf.org/prize](http://www.rwjf.org/prize). The RWJF Culture of Health Prize is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

### Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
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